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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 MCT-02 TRSE-00 /107 W
----------123163 071903Z /42
P 071709Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1870
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3342

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS:PINT, NU, CR
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS NICARAGUAN PROTEST

1. COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAFAEL ANGEL CALDERON EMPHATICALLY REJECTED A NICARAGUAN PROTEST IMMEDIATELY ON ITS PRESENTATION AUGUST 4 BY AMBASSADOR JUAN LACAYO. THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT HAD ACCUSED THE GOCR OF PERMITTING THE FREE USE OF COSTA RICAN TERRITORY BY THE GUERRILLA ENEMIES OF THE SOMOZAN REGIME AND VOICED THE HOPE THAT COSTA RICA WOULD HENCEFORTH EXERCISE MORE EFFICIENT CONTROL SO AS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF ARMED ATTACKS SUCH AS THOSE RECENTLY LAUNCHED AGAINST NICARAGUAN FRONTIER POLICE POSTS.

2. THE OBVIOUSLY ANNOYED FOREIGN MINISTER DENOUNCED THE ACCUSATIONS AS WITHOUT MERIT AND INSISTED THAT THE GON KNEW QUITE WELL WHAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES WERE: RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND NEUTRALITY VIS-A-VIS NICARAGUA'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE ADDED THAT COSTA RICA HAD DEMONSTRATED THIS POLICY REPEATEDLY, AS BY THE RECENT REINFORCEMENT OF FORCES ON THE NORTHERN FRONTIER.

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3. CALDERON ALSO RECALLED A MAY 30 GOCR PROTEST (REJECTED BY THE GON) FOR THE INCURSION OF NICARAGUAN HELICOPTERS INTO COSTA RICAN TERRITORY AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT SUCH ACTS WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. HE CLOSED WITH A WISH FOR PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN NICARAGUA.

4. IN A PARALLEL EDITORIAL AUGUST 5, THE INDEPENDENT AFTERNOON

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DAILY "LA PRENSA LIBRE" ATTACKED THE NICARAGUAN PROTEST AS WRONGHEADED AND RECKLESS. THE PAPER INSISTED THAT THE GOCR HAD IN FACT ACTED ENERGETICALLY AGAINST THE SANDINISTAS. IT POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THE GOCR HAD DONE WHAT IT COULD WITH ITS (HAPPILY) LIMITED FORCES, THE GON ALSO COULD BE ACCUSED OF ALLOWING TERRORISTS TO FREELY CROSS BORDERS. DESPITE ITS SUPERIOR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, THE GON WAS ABLE TO CONTROL NEITHER ITS FRONTIER NOR THE FSLN. "LA PRENSA LIBRE" CONCLUDED THAT THE SYSTEMATIC CAMPAIGN OF NICARAGUAN PROTESTS, DESIGNED TO UNITE NICARAGUAN PUBLIC FEELING AGAINST COSTA RICA, WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE.
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS NICARAGUAN PROTEST
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, NU, CS, (ANGEL CALDERSON, RAFAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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